

DISCUSSION GUIDE

When “What If” Becomes “What Now” | Brad Straarup

13 Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, 14 And Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?” 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. 18 But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

-Daniel 3:13-18 (NIV)

ARITHMOPHOBIA: FEAR OF NUMBERS

NOMOPHOBIA: FEAR OF BEING WITHOUT YOUR MOBILE PHONE

PLUTOPHOBIA: FEAR OF MONEY

VESTIPHOBIA: FEAR OF CLOTHING

PENTHERAPHOBIA: FEAR OF YOUR MOTHER IN LAW

ARACHIBUTYROPHOBIA: FEAR OF PEANUT BUTTER STICKING TO THE ROOF OF YOUR MOUTH

HIPPOPOTOMONSTROSESQUIPPEDALIOPHOBIA: FEAR OF LONG WORDS

FLIP THE FEAR.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

-Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

-Proverbs 18:21 (NIV)

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

-2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

-Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it.”

-Daniel 3:16-17 (NIV)

-SEE IT AS IT IS, NOT WORSE THAN IT IS...

-SEE IT AS IT IS, NOT WORSE THAN IT IS. THEN, SEE IT BETTER THAN IT IS.

TRANSFORM YOUR MIND

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

-Romans 12:2 (NIV)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

-Philippians 4:6-8 (NIV)

FLIP THE FEAR BY UNDERSTANDING OUR GOD IS ABLE.

FACE THE FEAR.

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

-Philippians 4:6-8 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

-Romans 8:28 (NIV)

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand.

-Daniel 3:17 (NIV)

FACE THE FEAR BY UNDERSTANDING OUR GOD IS PRESENT.

FIGHT THE FEAR.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

-Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand.

-Daniel 3:17 (NIV)

WE SERVE A GOD THAT'S SOVEREIGN...HE IS IN-CONTROL.

WE SERVE A GOD THAT'S OMNIPOTENT...HE IS ALL-POWERFUL.

WE SERVE A GOD THAT'S OMNISCIENT...HE IS ALL-KNOWING.

WE SERVE A GOD THAT'S OMNIPRESENT...HE IS EVERYWHERE.

WE SERVE A GOD THAT'S OMNIBENEVOLENT...HE IS SUPREME GOOD.

ADMIT WE HAVE THEM.

CONVERT YOUR FEAR INTO FAITH.

STAY FOCUSED ON THE PRESENT.

FIGHT THE FEAR BY UNDERSTANDING OUR GOD IS AN EVEN IF GOD.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are some questions or curiosities you have from today's message? (Leader Note: This is a great place to understand where your group is in their spiritual walk and understanding. Encourage members to ask whatever questions they may have - often, people are hesitant to ask questions when they feel they might be too "basic" or about something they should already know)
2. What is one point from the message that stuck out to you? Why? (Leader Note: As members share their points, allow people to engage with one another about these points. Are two or more people bringing up the same point? Use that time to talk more about it, see how it moves you and your members - the Holy Spirit may be leading your House Party in a specific direction)
3. What is a truth about God, the world, or yourself that you have learned today?
4. What is one way you can apply this message to your life this week? (Leader Note: Great applications are S.M.A.R.T: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound).